

September 21, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units and the 29 Intermediate Units for which it serves, I am writing to strongly encourage you to appoint Julie Tritt Schell to the USAC Board of Directors as a representative of schools.

Julie Tritt Schell is a Pennsylvania E-rate Coordinator and E-Rate expert who serves as the Co-Chair of the State E-rate Coordinators Alliance. Through her daily involvement with SECA colleagues, she understands the challenges faced by all schools and libraries in the country, and regularly advocates to FCC and USAC official on their behalf.

Ms. Schell began her career in educational technology as a member of the governmental relations staff of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. In that role, she formed EdLiNC-PA, an education consortium which lobbied the PA Public Utility Commission concerning technology and telecommunications policies affecting public education.

Ms Schell then moved to the Pennsylvania Office of Educational Technology where in addition to her role as one of the first State E-rate Coordinators in the country, she served as the Director of Educational Technology. In this capacity, she was responsible for educational technology initiatives including a \$12 million Microsoft Education Partnership, several workforce development initiatives, technology leadership academies for school administrators, and coordination of the state telecommunications contract on behalf of school and library users. She also served on the Governor's Rural Telecommunications Task Force and assisted with policy development on all education-related technology issues, including cyber charter schools.

She previously served as a USAC Board member, during which time she communicated regularly with interested stakeholder groups, in order to receive useful information and to serve as a liaison between USAC management and program participants.

Our experience working with Ms. Schell is that she has a keen appreciation of the policy objectives underlying the E-rate requirements. We believe that her experience and perspectives have and will

in the future prove extremely beneficial to the USAC Board as it oversees the administration of the program.

Because of her outstanding expertise and knowledge, I encourage you to appoint Ms. Schell to the USAC Board of Directors on behalf of schools.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Gluck

**Executive Director** 

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